



KASANE

1

d a r u m a
m a t s u u r a

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SHE HAD
BECOME THE
LEGENDARY
ACTRESS
SHE ALWAYS
WANTED
TO BE.

MY
MOTHER
WAS
BEAUTIFUL.



SHE
LEFT THIS
WORLD
...

AND,
STILL
BEAU-
TIFUL
...



UGLY
ME
BEHIND.

LEAV-
ING
...





Chapter One: Kasane

KASANE

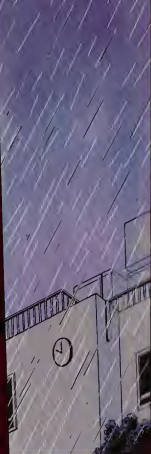
1

daruma
matsuura



WHEN I
WAS IN
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL,
THERE WERE
LOTS OF
PRETTY
GIRLS IN
MY CLASS.

I'D
ALWAYS
LOOK
AT THEIR
FACES
AND
THINK...



"THEY MUST
ENJOY
LOOKING AT
THEMSELVES IN
THE MIRROR
EVERY DAY."



"MAN,
IT MUST
BE NICE,
BEING
PRETTY."



S-
SUKE-
YO...

FUCHI
...

YOUR
MOM'S
NAME,
FUCHI-
SAN.

TELL
ME
...

HEY,

WHY
DONCHA
SAY IT
ONE MORE
TIME?

HEY,

GRIND



KA-
SANE-
CHAN
...

WHY ME,
AND NOT
YOU, MY
BEAUTIFUL
MOTHER...

WHY
AM I
ALIVE?

THEY'RE
NOTHING
ALIKE!

SHE'S
STILL
SAYING
IT!

WHO
COULD
BELIEVE
THAT,
RIGHT?

AHA
HA
H!

H!
HA
HA
HA
HA
H





OH!

...FOR THE
LEADING ROLE
IN THE NEXT
STUDENT ARTS
FESTIVAL!

I NOMINATE
FUCHI-SAN...



WE'D
ALL LIKE TO
SEE...

I MEAN,
YOUR MOM IS
AN ACTRESS,
RIGHT?



...THE
DAUGHTER
OF THE
LEGENDARY
ACTRESS
PLAYING
CINDER-
ELLA.

...



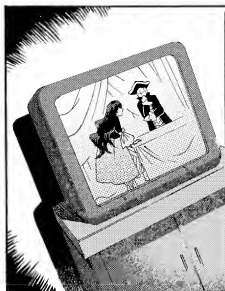




EVEN IF I DID
PULL OFF
THE ROLE OF
CINDERELLA,
IT WOULDN'T
CHANGE THE WAY
I LOOK.



BUT I WAS
SUKEYO
FUCHI'S
DAUGHTER.



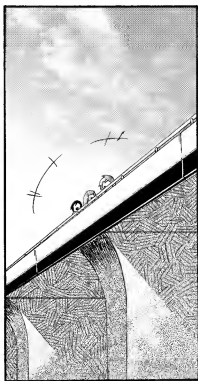
EVEN IF I
LOOKED
HORRIBLE, IF
I COULD JUST
PLAY THE
ROLE WELL...
I THOUGHT
IT'D, MAYBE,
CHANGE THE
WAY THEY
LOOK AT ME,
JUST A LITTLE.



THAT'S
WHY I
WAS SO
DESPER-
ATE...

THEY MIGHT
RECOGNIZE
ME AS MY
MOTHER'S
DAUGHTER!







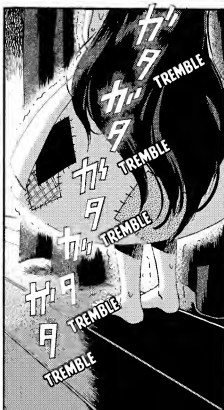
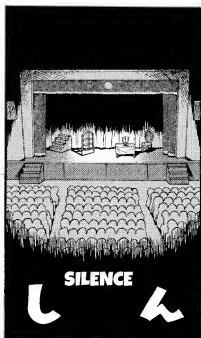


UP NEXT IS
GRADE FIVE,
CLASS TWO:
CINDERELLA!

I COULD
FEEL
MYSELF
FREEZING
UP WITH
UNFATH-
OMABLE
ANXIETY.

THE
STAGE
WAS
HUGE
...

THE
LIGHTS
WERE
DAZZLING
...







"RIGHT NOW,
I'M NOT ME.
RIGHT NOW,
I'M..."

"THIS IS
MOMMY'S
WORLD."

"CALM
DOWN."

I TOLD
MYSELF..



"WE'RE
GOING TO THE
BALL AT THE
PALACE."



"YOU
CLEAN UP AT
HOME, ALL
DUSTY AND
DIRTY!"



"OH,
THERE
YOU ARE,
CINDER-
ELLA."

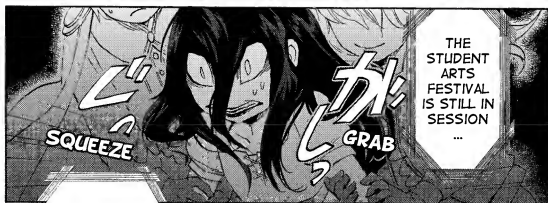














IS
EVERY-
THING
OKAY?!
WHO'S
THE ONE
FEELING
SICK?!

IF YOU
DON'T DO
AS I SAY,
I'LL STRIP
YOU NAKED
RIGHT HERE
AND TURN
ON THE
LIGHTS.

SENSEI!

AND
NO
MATTER
HOW
MUCH
I IM-
PROVED

...

THAT
NO
MATTER
HOW
HARD I
TRIED

...



I COULDN'T
EVEN PROVE TO
THEM THAT I WAS
MY MOTHER'S
DAUGHTER.

WITH
THIS
FACE

...



...

BUT
I...



ONCE
YOU'VE GOTTEN
CHANGED, I'LL
TAKE YOU TO
THE NURSE'S
OFFICE!
♡

SHIVER

ズルッ

...KNEW
THAT AL-
READY.

THEN
LET'S
GO!

ICHIKA-
CHAN...

スニヤァ
SNEER



THE
LOVELY
SYM-
METRY
OFHER
FACE
STILL
RE-
MAINS.

NO
MATTER
HOW
MANY
NASTY
WORDS
HAVE
SPILLED
FROM
HER LIPS
...



WHAT'RE YOU
SNEERING AT
ME FOR?



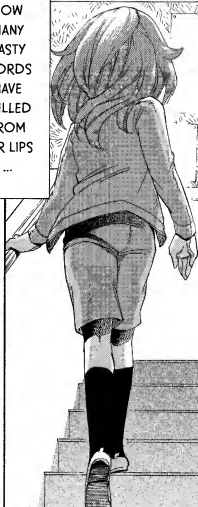
I
ENVIED
THAT.

I
WANTED
THAT.



I
WANTED
THAT
FACE.

HURRY
UP AND
WALK,
YOU
UGLY
BITCH!





TAKE
THE
THING
YOU
WANT
...

PUT
THAT
LIP-
STICK
ON...



AND
KISS
IT.







D-
D-D-
DON'T
YELL!

I'LL
STAB
YOU!



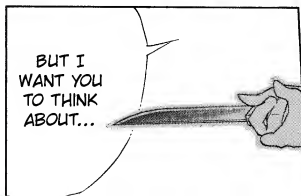
GYA—

カ
GRAB
?

Chapter One: the end



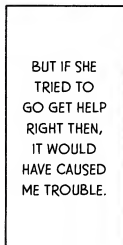
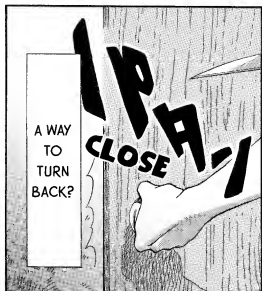




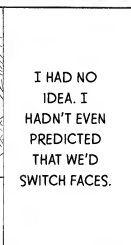
OR SHALL I
LIVE AS ICHIKA
NISHIZAWA
FROM NOW ON,
AND YOU CAN
BE KASANE
FUCHI?

NO!

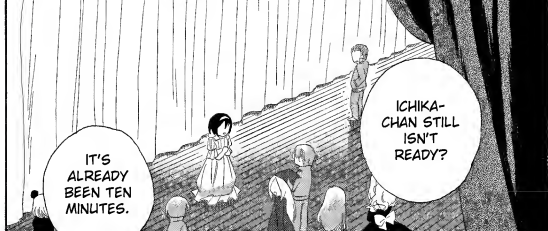


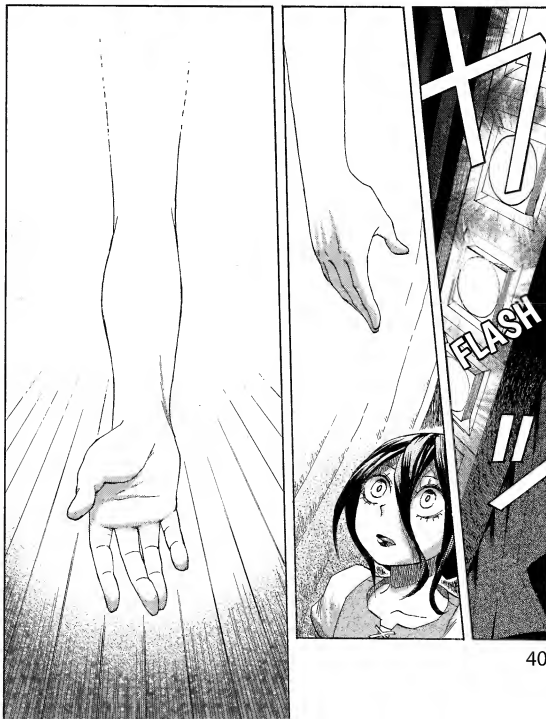


BUT IF SHE
TRIED TO
GO GET HELP
RIGHT THEN,
IT WOULD
HAVE CAUSED
ME TROUBLE.



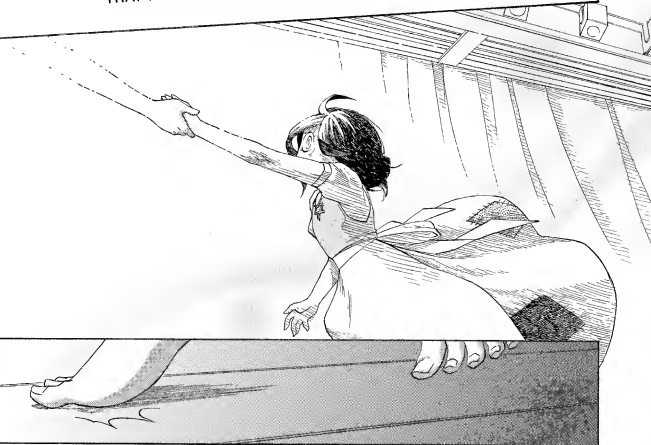
I HAD NO
IDEA. I
HADN'T EVEN
PREDICTED
THAT WE'D
SWITCH FACES.







THAT MOMENT, HIDEOUS, JOYLESS, AND FOOLISH...



KA-
SANE
FUCHI

...

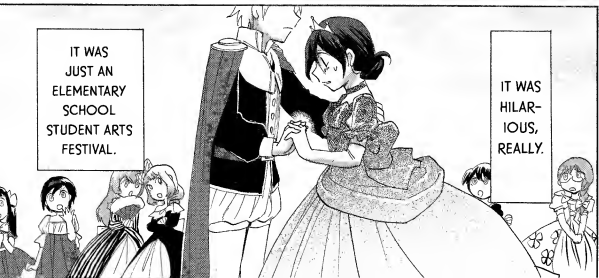
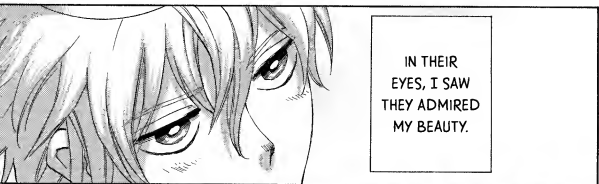


...TRANS-
FORMED.



THEY
DIDN'T
LOOK AT
ME WITH
CONTEMPT
OR PITY...







MY GLASS
SLIPPERS
WERE JUST
FLATS WITH
ALUMINUM
FOIL.



BUT I
WAS...



WITHOUT
A DOUBT,
CINDERELLA.



I
DIDN'T
WANT
TO GO
BACK.



WHAT
WOULD
HAPPEN
IF I
TURNED
BACK?

MAYBE
ALL THAT
AWAITED ME
WAS EVEN
CRUELER
BULLYING.

WHAT
WOULD
MY
MOTHER
HAVE
DONE?

...MOTH-
ER?

THE UGLY
ME WAS
WAITING
IN THAT
TOILET
STALL.





WHY DIDN'T
I REALIZE
RIGHT AWAY...

MY
MOTHER!

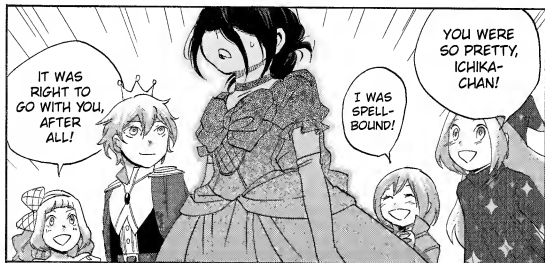
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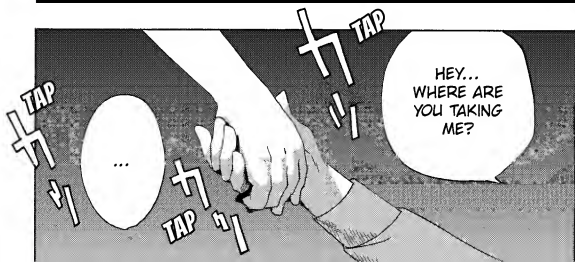


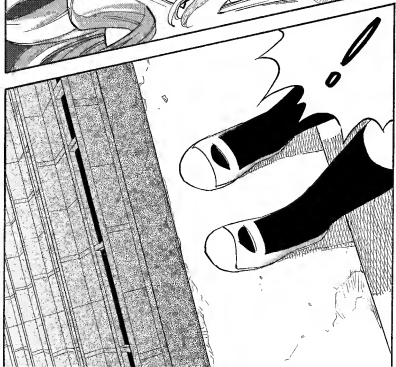
HER
FACE
WAS
NOT
HER
OWN.



THAT
MAYBE
...









HOW
BEAUTI-
FUL.



SIT DOWN,
AND LET'S
TALK.



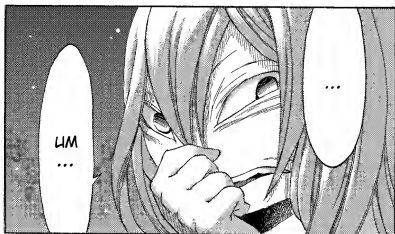
I SAW
THE
WORLD
THROUGH
YOUR
EYES.



...FROM
THE
WORLD
I KNOW.



IT
WAS...
TOTALLY
DIFFERENT
...



LIM
...

...





SEEING
THINGS
THROUGH
YOUR
EYES...
MADE
ME THINK,
TOO.



I'M
SORRY
FOR
EVERY-
THING.



U-
UM...

THEN
COULD
WE BE
FRIE-



REALLY?

YEAH.



I
WON'T
BULLY
YOU
ANY-
MORE.







GLENCH

STOP
...



DON'T
MOVE!

STAND

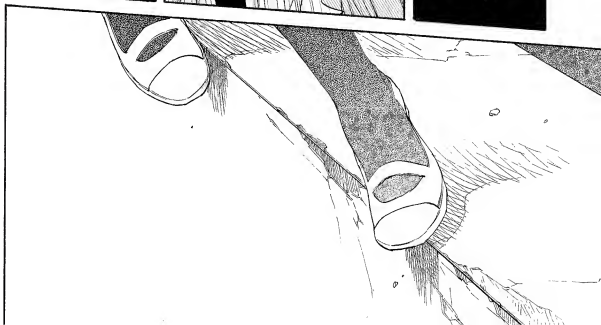


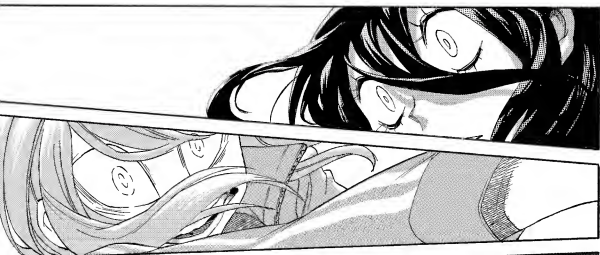
HUH
?!

WHAT
?!

ARE
YOU
SERI-
OUS
?!

MAYBE.
I DON'T
KNOW,
EITHER.





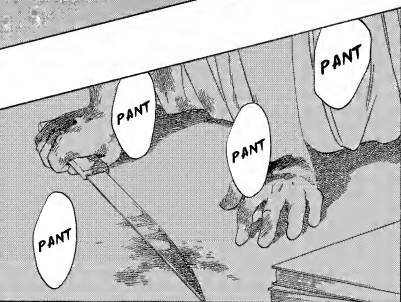


I DON'T
CLEARLY
REMEMBER
WHAT
HAPPENED
AFTER
THAT, BUT
I THINK I
RAN AWAY.

I WAS
HORRI-
FIED...



MOM-
MY...



SPLAT-
TTER









NO ONE
WILL LOVE
ME.



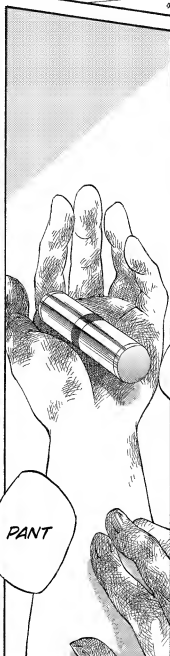
SO
STEAL
THEIR
FACES,
AND
STEAL
THEIR
LOVE
...

THAT'S
RIGHT.

KA-
SANE!



GAASP



THE MAGIC
SPELL WORE
OFF.

BUT...

IT WASN'T
A DREAM.



NO MATTER HOW GRIM ...

OR PUNISHING THAT ROAD MIGHT BE,

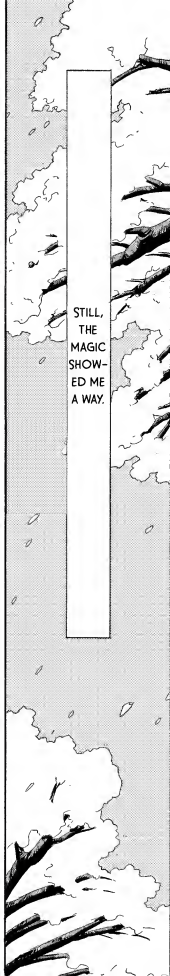
I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO TRUST IN THE PATH SHE LEFT...

AND WALK IN HER FOOTSTEPS.
*



* HERE, IT SAYS KASANE-ARUKU, "TO WALK IN HER FOOTSTEPS," A PHRASE WHICH INCLUDES KASANE'S NAME.

STILL, THE MAGIC SHOWED ME A WAY.

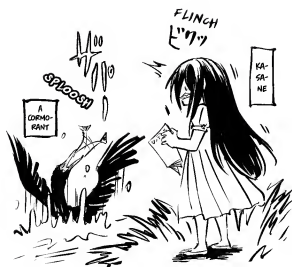




I
WOULD
ABAN-
DON
MY
UGLY
SELF...

AND
BE-
COME
SOME-
ONE
BEAU-
TIFUL.

KASANE



CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

BUT THIS IS STILL JUST A DREAM.

YES, THIS IS WHERE I REALLY BELONG.

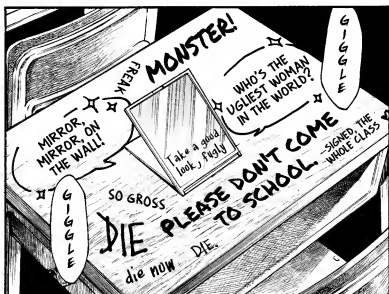
THIS IS IT
...

Chapter Three: Iku Igarashi



M...





THAT CAN
CHANGE MY
LIFE IS...

THE
ONLY
THING

...



NO.

THAT
FIRST
TIME I
USED
IT,
THEN
WHAT
WOULD
HAVE
HAP-
PENED
?

IF
ICHIKA
NISHI-
ZAWA
HADN'T
DIED

...

I
CAN'T
USE
IT.





I
COULD
NEVER
BEAR
THAT
RISK.

AND
ANY-
WAY
...



AND
THEN
THEY'D
TAKE IT
AWAY.



SOON
ENOUGH, SHE'D
HAVE TOLD
EVERYONE
ABOUT THE
LIPSTICK...



THEN
THEY'D HAVE
SUSPECTED
MY MOTHER
USED IT,
RUINING HER
LEGACY.



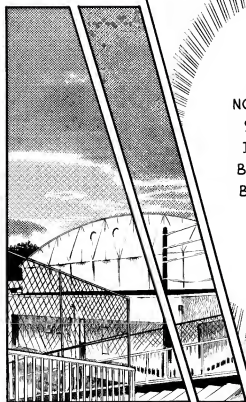
I DIDN'T
KNOW WHEN
OR WHY MY
FACE WOULD
TURN BACK.

THE
EFFECTS
ONLY
LASTED
ONE DAY.



IT WAS
IMPOS-
SIBLE.

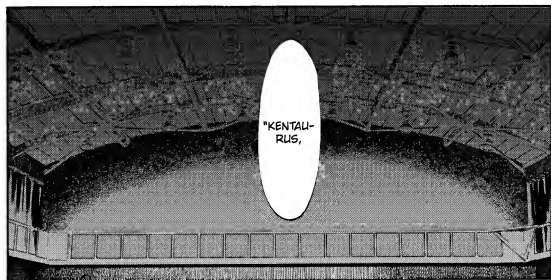
GRIND



RIGHT
NOW, THERE'S
SOMEONE
I WANT TO
BECOME SO
BADLY THAT
I CAN'T
STAND IT!



IT'S
IMPOS-
SIBLE...
BUT...



"KENTAU-
RUS,



HERCULES
..."





THE
CAPTAIN OF
THE ACTING
CLUB, AND
ONE YEAR
OLDER
THAN ME.

IKU
IGARASHI,



I FIRST SAW
HER DURING
THE CULTURAL
FESTIVAL A
YEAR AGO.



HER
PRESENCE
MADE THE
WORLD
ON STAGE
SUDDENLY
BRIGHTER.

THE
MOMENT
SHE
APPEARED
...



!





IF I
COULD
BECOME
HER...!



HER
FACE IS THE
DEFINITION
OF FEMINE
BEAUTY...AND
IF I COULD
JUST HAVE
IT...



EVERYONE,
COME
OVER
HERE!

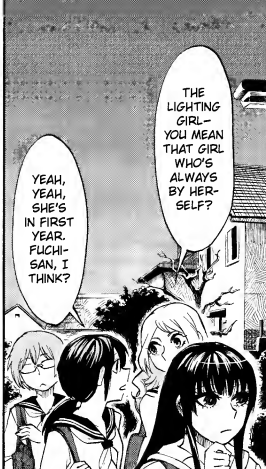
BUT I'D
NEVER
GET THE
CHANCE!

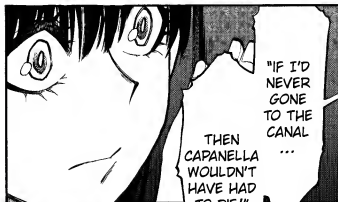


HOW
MANY
TIMES
...

HAVE
I FAN-
TASIZED
ABOUT
IT?

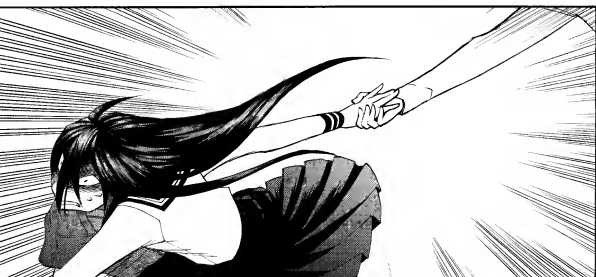
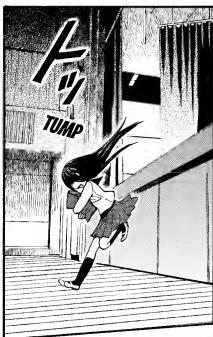
















THAT
WAS
AMAZ-
ING!



YOU
CAN
ONLY
SAY
THAT

...

BE-
CAUSE
YOU
DON'T
UNDER-
STAND
ANY-
THING.



HEY, WHY
DIDN'T YOU
AUDITION
FOR A
ROLE?!

YOU
SHOULD
ACT,
COME
ON!



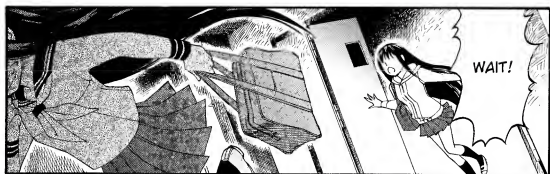
YOUR
VOICE IS
GREAT,
AND
YOU CAN
ACT!

AND
YOU'RE
WAY
BETTER
THAN
THE
OTHER
STU-
DENTS!

...



JERK



Chapter Three: the end













SORRY
ABOUT THE
OTHER DAY.



HEY,
KASANE-
CHAN, WHY
DON'T YOU
COME OVER
HERE SO
WE CAN
TALK?

...



BUT YOU
WERE JUST
SO GOOD,
I JUST
COULDN'T
HELP
WATCHING!

I DIDN'T
MEAN TO
PEEK...



IF YOU
SHOW
THEM
YOUR
ACTING,
I'M SURE
EVERYONE
WILL-

YOU
SHOULD
COME
TO CLUB
PRAC-
TICE!

LET
ME CALL
YOU
THAT,
FROM
NOW
ON!
SO!

UM...
YOU
KEEP
CALL-
ING
ME...

STOP
IT.



THEN
I'LL JUST
BE A
STRANGER
TO YOU!
IT WON'T
BE YOUR
PROBLEM!

I'LL
HAND
IN MY
WITH-
DRAWAL
TOMOR-
ROW.

JUST
STOP IT,
PLEASE.

I DOUBT THERE'S ANY WAY
YOU COULD UNDERSTAND...
HOW SHITTY I FEEL.



I USED
TO BE
BULLIED
BACK IN
MIDDLE
SCHOOL,
JUST
LIKE YOU
ARE NOW,
KASANE-
CHAN.

WE'RE
ALIKE.

YOU
THINK?



BUT
YOU
KNOW,
YOU JUST
CAN'T
SUFFER
IT ALL
ALONE.

YEAH.

...YOU
DID?

AND
SPENT
EVERY DAY
PRAYING
THAT SCHOOL
WOULD END
QUICKLY.

I
COULDN'T
SAY ANY-
THING, SO
I JUST
HUNCHED
OVER...



IF YOU ASK
FOR HELP,
THERE'S SURE
TO BE SOMEONE
WHO WILL
HELP YOU!

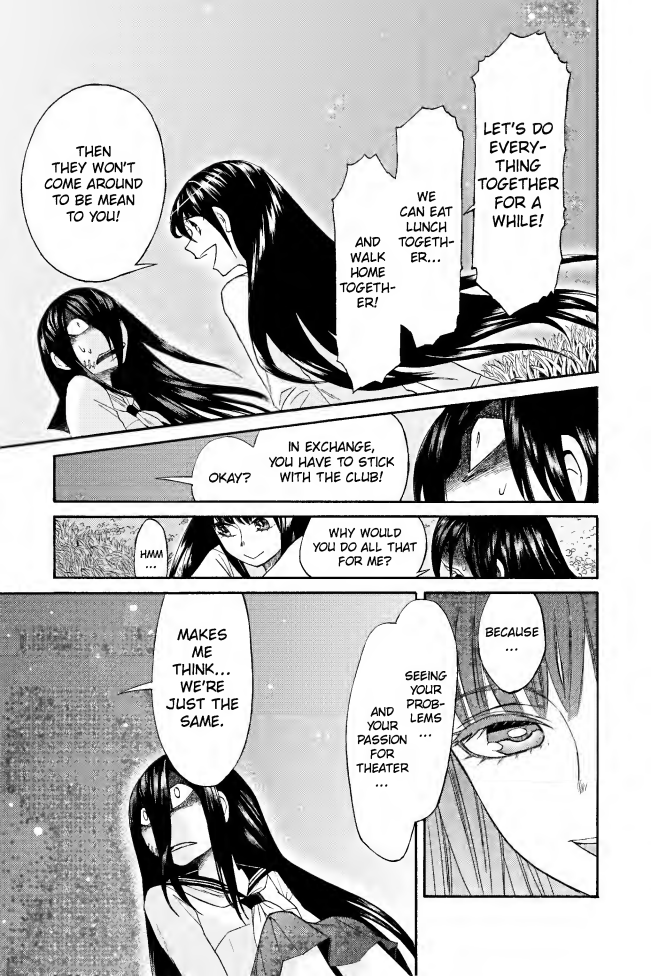
THAT'S
WHEN YOU
HAVE TO
SPEAK UP
...



THERE'S
ONE RIGHT
HERE, FOR
STARTERS,
ISN'T
THERE?

THERE'S
NO ONE
LIKE
THAT.

NO!



THEN
THEY WON'T
COME AROUND
TO BE MEAN
TO YOU!

WE
CAN EAT
LUNCH
TOGETH-
ER...
AND
WALK
HOME
TOGETH-
ER!

LET'S DO
EVERY-
THING
TOGETHER
FOR A
WHILE!

IN EXCHANGE,
YOU HAVE TO STICK
WITH THE CLUB!

OKAY?

HMM
...

WHY WOULD
YOU DO ALL THAT
FOR ME?

MAKES
ME
THINK...
WE'RE
JUST THE
SAME.

SEEING
YOUR
PROB-
LEMS ...
AND
YOUR
PASSION
FOR
THEATER
...

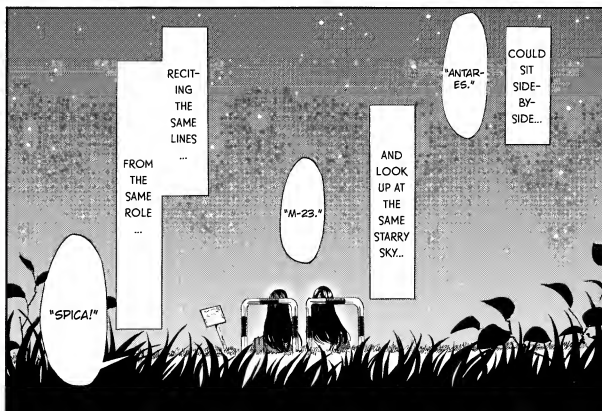
BECAUSE
...

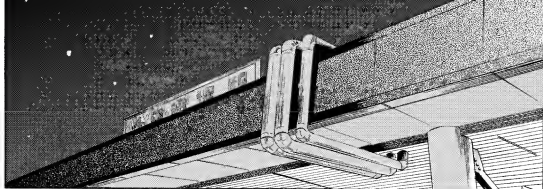


I
COULDN'T
BELIEVE IT.



OH!





A TOKEN
OF OUR
ACQUAIN-
TANCE!



HERE.



SO
JUST
TAKE
IT!

AS
SEMPAI
AND
KOUHAI,
AND AS
FRIENDS.

I
JUST
KNOW
WE'LL
BE
CLOSE
...



HUH?



SEE
YOU AT
REHEARS-
AL!



...
FROM
THAT DAY
ON...



I WASN'T
ALONE
ANYMORE.



AND...



THE BULLYING
THAT HAD GONE
ON FOR SO
LONG STOPPED
JUST LIKE THAT.



BUT...

A TECHNIQUE
ACHIEVED
THROUGH
BEAUTY.

THIS IS
THE POWER
OF HER
INFLUENCE!



BEAUTY
ISN'T...

ALL
SHE
HAS.



LET'S
START
THE RE-
HEARSAL!



WE'RE
GOOD.

SOUND
AND
LIGHTING,
ARE YOU
OKAY?









APPARENTLY,
IT WAS SOME
KIDS WHO
SHE USED TO
BE FRIENDS
WITH IN
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL...

SHE
WAS CUTE,
AND NICE,
TOO, SO A
BUNCH OF
PEOPLE IN
CLASS WERE
JEALOUS
OF HER FOR
BEING SO
PERFECT.

*SHE WAS
BULLIED
BECAUSE
SHE WAS
CUTE.*



DO YOU KNOW
HOW PATHETIC
THAT MAKES
US FEEL?!

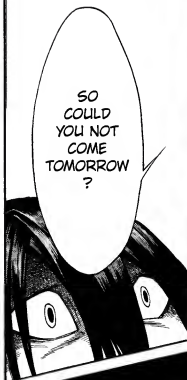
EVERYONE
ALWAYS
COMPARES
US TO YOU!



DON'T BE
STUPID.

AND YOU
THINK YOU,
UGLY AND
MISERABLE
AS YOU ARE,
ARE JUST
LIKE HER?

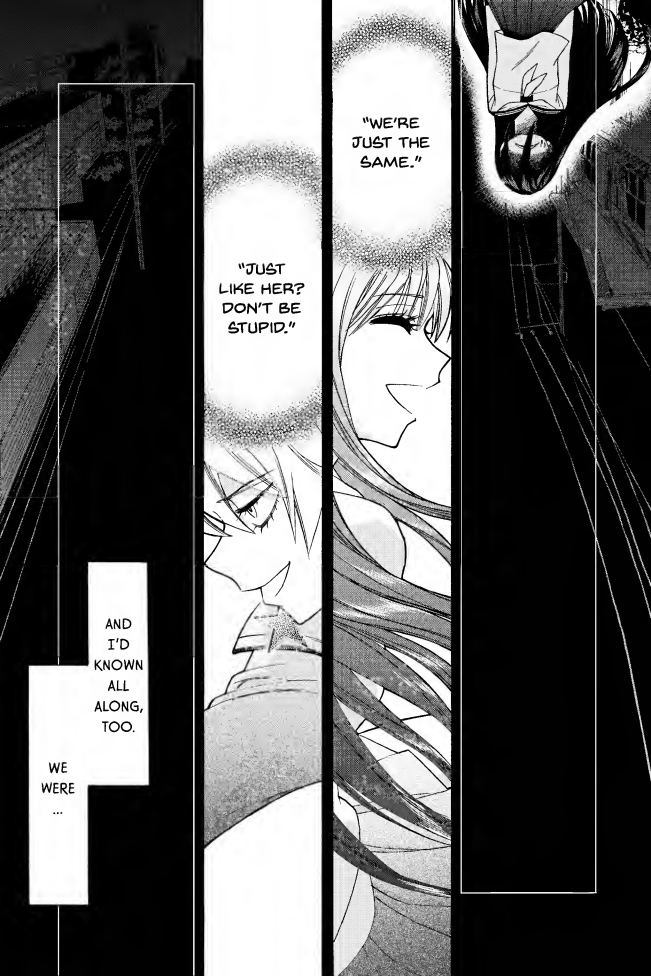








Chapter Four: the end



AND
I'D
KNOWN
ALL
ALONG,
TOO.

WE
WERE

...

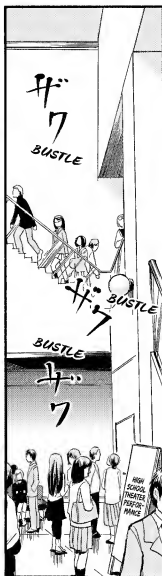
"JUST
LIKE HER?
DON'T BE
STUPID."

"WE'RE
JUST THE
SAME."



Chapter Five: Different Creatures









SHOVE

THE GIRLS
I'D BEEN
FRIENDS
WITH
SUDDENLY
DIDN'T
LIKE ME
ANYMORE.

RIGHT
AFTER
MIDDLE
SCHOOL
STARTED

...

...

...ABOUT
THE TIME
YOU WERE
BULLIED.

EEEK!

OKAY.

DON'T
ACT SO
FULL OF
YOURSELF.

HUH
?

WHAT, YOU
EVEN HAVE
TO ACT CUTE
WHEN YOU
SCREAM?

I...
NEVER
THOUGHT
OF IT THAT
WAY...

HOW
CAN YOU
PLAY THE
GOOD GIRL
WHEN YOU
ACTUALLY
JUST LOOK
DOWN ON
US?

YOU
ACT
LIKE
SUCH
A
PRIN-
CESS!

IT MUST
HAVE FELT
GOOD, ALWAYS
USING US TO
MAKE YOUR-
SELF LOOK
BETTER,
HUH?



THEY
MUST HAVE
FELT THAT,
TOO...

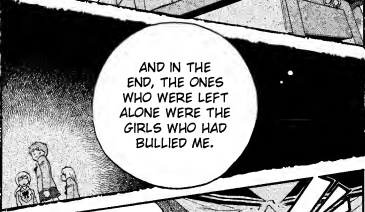
THAT'S
WHEN YOU'RE
GROWING, MAKING
IT CLEARER WHO'S
GOOD-LOOKING
AND WHO'S NOT.

RIGHT WHEN
YOU GET INTO
MIDDLE SCHOOL
IS PARTICULARLY
HARD...



AND
AFTER THAT,
I STARTED
TO GET MORE
AND MORE
FRIENDS IN
CLASS...

AND THEN
THEY LET
ME HANG
OUT WITH
THEM...



AND IN THE
END, THE ONES
WHO WERE LEFT
ALONE WERE THE
GIRLS WHO HAD
BULLIED ME.

OH...

CLENCH



FEEL
SYMPATHY
FOR THE
GIRLS WHO
BULLIED HER.

I JUST
CAN'T HELP
BUT...

BUT...



I
GATHERED
UP MY
COURAGE,
AND TOLD
SOME
OTHER KIDS
IN CLASS
ABOUT HOW
I WAS BEING
BULLIED...





...IT MADE
ME REALLY
HAPPY.



BUT WE'RE
NOT THE SAME.



HMM?

BUT
I'M SURE
THOSE
GIRLS
WOULD
HAVE
LIKED TO
BE JUST
LIKE...

NO
...

WE
WERE
LOOKING
UP AT
DIFFERENT
SKIES,
THAT
NIGHT.



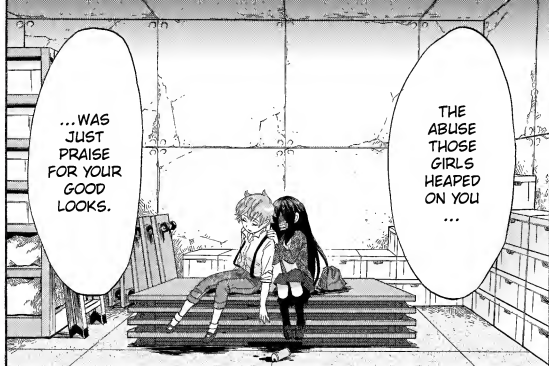
SEMPAI

...

I'M
SURE YOU
WOULDN'T
UNDERSTAND
...

WE
WERE
ALWAYS
LIVING IN
DIFFERENT
WORLDS.







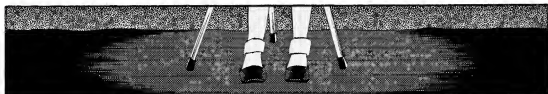
EVEN
IF IT'S
JUST FOR
THE TIME
YOU'RE
ASLEEP
...

I
WANT
TO BE
YOU.



UGLY,
ISN'T
IT?





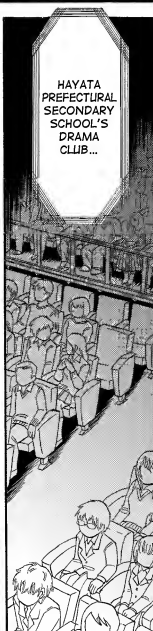
SHE'S
SOMEHOW...
PRETTIER
THAN USUAL,
TONIGHT?

WITH
OH
FES-
TIVAL,
TRAGIC
JUST
THIS
NIGHT.

HEY
...

DON'T
YOU
THINK
...

HAYATA
PREFECTURAL
SECONDARY
SCHOOL'S
DRAMA
CLUB...





I WAS
BACK.



"KENTAURUS..."

"HERCULES..."

"ARCTURUS..."

OH
...

"CASSIOPEIA..."

I WAS
...

"ANTARES..."

THE
LIGHTS
WERE
FOR ME...

THE
SILENCE
WAS
FOR ME
...

IN THAT
MOMENT,
I WAS
BEAUTIFUL!

AND THAT
MOMENT, THE
HUNDREDS
OF EYES HERE
DIDN'T SEE
AN UGLY
MONSTER...



MAYBE
THEY'RE
CALLING
ME."

"WHY IS IT
THAT STARS
TWINKLE?

SUCH
AN IDIOT,
THEN.



*OH FESTIVAL,
TRAGIC JUST
THIS NIGHT.
BASED ON
NIGHT ON THE
GALACTIC
RAILROAD.*
THIS SCRIPT
IS A LITTLE
DIFFERENT
FROM THE
ORIGINAL
NOVEL.*

* CLASSIC FANTASY NOVEL BY KENJI
MIYAZAWA, WRITTEN IN 1934.



"YOU
THINK,

DID I
THINK
...

THAT WE
COULD
BE LIKE
GIOVANNI
AND CAM-
PANELLA
...

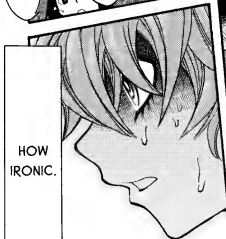
CAMPAN-
ELLA?"

IN
THIS
PLAY?

BUT THE WHOLE
THING WAS
JUST A FANTASY
GIOVANNI HAD
IMAGINED, SINCE
HE WAS UNABLE
TO ACCEPT
CAMPANELLA'S
DEATH.

IN SEARCH OF
"TRUE HAPPINESS,"
HEADING TO THE
TERMINAL STATION.
THEY MEET A VARIETY
OF CHARACTERS
ALONG THEIR
JOURNEY.

TWO BEST
FRIENDS
GET ON THE
GALACTIC
RAILROAD
TOGETHER...



GIOVANNI
WAS SO
DEPENDENT
ON HIS
FRIEND, AND
MISSED HIM
SO MUCH,
THAT HE
CREATED
THIS FANTASY.





I HADN'T
KNOWN
MY PLACE,
AND NOW,
I WAS
HAVING THAT
RUBBED IN
MY FACE.



I HAD
TRIED TO
BELIEVE
THAT WE
WERE THE
SAME.



I HAD
BELIEVED
IT WAS
FRIEND-
SHIP.



MY
VOICE
AND WON'T
COME
ACT- OUT...
ING...
IS
GOING
OVER-
BOARD,
TOO
...

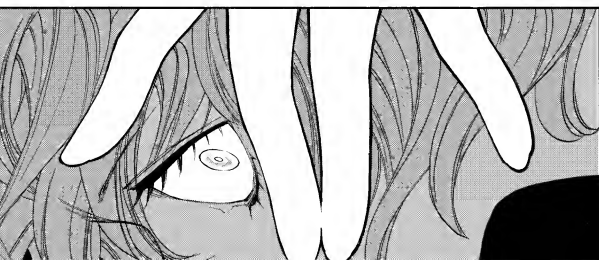
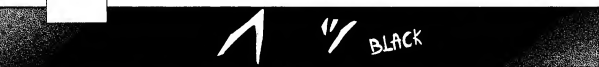
IN
THE
END
...

EVEN AFTER
COMING SO
FAR, COULD
I NEVER
ESCAPE MY
UGLY SELF, MY
FEELINGS OF
INFERIORITY?

"BUT
..."

THE
STORY
ABOUT
THE
GALACTIC
RAILROAD
IS TRUE!
I KNOW
IT!"

GIO-
VANNI'S
INNO-
CENT
LINES
JUST
SOUND-
ED
PATHETIC
TO ME.



THROW
IT AWAY!

THROW
ASIDE THE
SAD AND
PATHETIC
KASANE
FUCHI!

DO YOU
NEED
THAT UGLY
HEART, NOW
THAT YOU
HAVE THIS
BODY?

MOM
...

KASANE-
CHAN...

OH...

IKU IGARASHI
DIDN'T
HAVE THIS
SENSE OF
INFERIORITY,
THIS SELF-
LOATHING.



YEAH!
I HATED
MYSELF
SO MUCH,
BUT, I CAN
ABANDON
ALL OF
THAT
NOW!

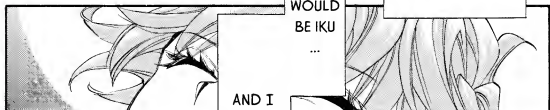
WHAT SHE
HAD...
WAS BEAUTY
BACKED
BY SELF-
CONFIDENCE!

RIGHT
NOW...
I AM
IKU
IGA-
RASHI!



I
WOULD
BE IKU
...

I WOULD
FILL MY HEART
WITH HER
CONFIDENCE.



AND I
WOULD
BE GIO-
VANNI.



"LOOK,
CAMPAN-
ELLA!"

IT'S
THE REAL
GALACTIC
RAILROAD!"

"THE NEXT
STOP IS THE
FLOATING
BRIDGE OF
DREAMS."

ゴト
ン
ゴト
ン
GA-CHUNK
GA-CHUNK

"GA-
LACTIC
STA-
TION
..."

GA-
LACTIC
STA-
TION."

ゴト
ン
GA-CHUNK



"HEY,
TAKE OFF
YOUR
SHOES,
COME
ON!"

PHEW.
IT LOOKS
LIKE SHE'S
BACK ON
FORM.

WHICH
ONE'S
EARTH
?!"

"I
THINK
THAT
ONE'S
CYGNUS
..."





HE
DROWNED,
TRYING
TO SAVE
ME...

HE
JUMPED
INTO THAT
RUSHING
BLACK
CANAL."

"CAM-
PANELLA
DIED,
THEN.



"THAT'S
RIGHT..."



I
KILLED
HIM!"



"HE DIED,
BECAUSE
OF ME..."



WE
REALLY
ARE
LUCKY
TO BE
WORKING
BACK-
STAGE.

WE
SHOULD
BE USED
TO THIS
BY NOW,
BUT HER
PERFORMANCE
IS STILL SO
ENGROSS-
ING.

WOW.



...



...THE
SHOOTING
STARS
IN THE
NIGHT

"WHEN
SUMMER
COMES,
I'LL
REMEMBER
...

THE
NIGHT
OF THE
FESTIVAL...
AND
THOSE
NOW
PASSED
AWAY
"

"WHEN
SUMMER
COMES,
I'LL RE-
MEMBER
...





THAT
WAS A
GREAT
SHOW,
GUYS!



WE'LL CLEAN
UP, SO YOU GO
BACK TO THE
GREEN ROOM
TO REST.

YOUR
ACTING
WAS
AMAZING!

NO,
YOU
WERE
GREAT!

IKU
...



THANK
YOU.

I
WILL...
REST
FOR A
BIT.

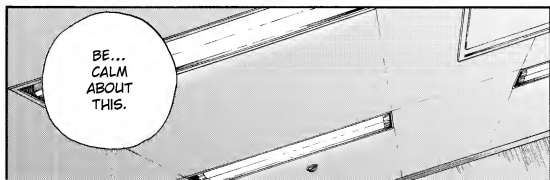
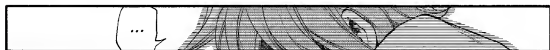


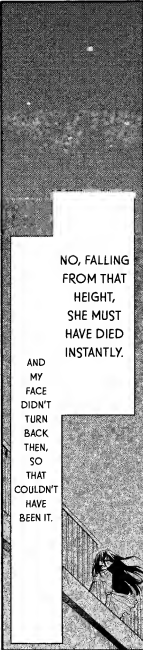


MAYBE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER NOT TO KNOW.

I HAD BEEN SO EXCITED BY EVERYONE'S REACTIONS, I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND, BUT...

THE OTHER TIME ...





NO, FALLING
FROM THAT
HEIGHT,
SHE MUST
HAVE DIED
INSTANTLY.

AND
MY
FACE
DIDN'T
TURN
BACK
THEN,
SO
THAT
COULDN'T
HAVE
BEEN IT.



WAS
THAT
BE-
CAUSE
ICHIKA
DIED?



MY
FACE
WAS
BACK
ONCE I
WOKE
UP THE
NEXT
MORN-
ING.

WHEN I
STOLE
ICHIKA'S
FACE THE
OTHER
TIME...

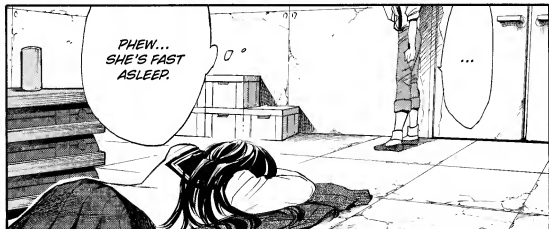


IF IKU
IGARASHI
WAKES UP
RIGHT NOW,
I'M IN
TROUBLE.

RIGHT
NOW, I
SHOULD
ACTUALLY
BE THINK-
ING OF A
WAY TO
TURN
MY FACE
BACK.



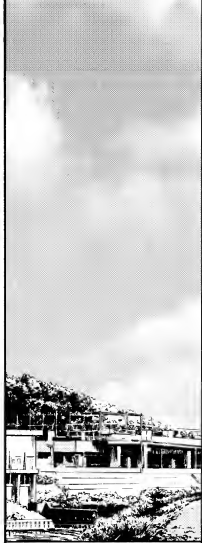
SO IF THE EFFECT
WORE OFF WITH
TIME, THEN...

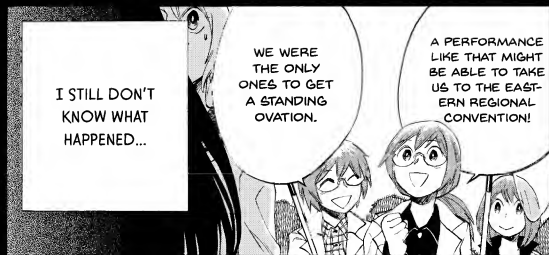


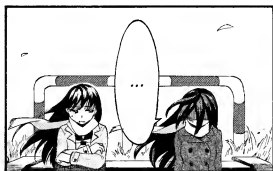












I SAW
THE
RECORDING
OF THE
SHOW
...

BUT
THE ME
ON FILM
WAS...
NOT EVEN
LIKE ME
AT ALL.



THE MEMORIES CUT
OFF...AFTER I SPOKE
WITH YOU IN THE
STORAGE ROOM.



...DO
SOMETHING
TO ME?

DID
YOU
...



I
DON'T
KNOW.

BUT
I'M
SCARED.



DO
SOME-
THING?
DO
WHAT?

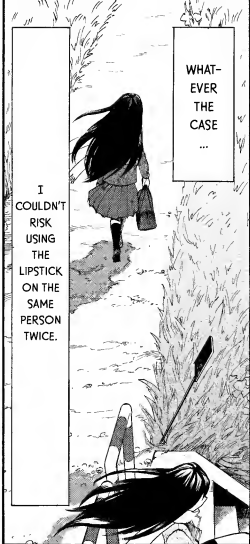




BUT
I'M
GRATEFUL
TO HER
...

THIS HAS
TAUGHT ME
A LOT OF
THINGS.

AND
THERE
WAS NO
REASON
FOR ME
TO BE
INVOLVED
WITH
SOME-
ONE WHO
COULDN'T
EVEN BE
A TARGET
FOR ME.



WHAT-
EVER
THE
CASE
...

I
COULDN'T
RISK
USING
THE
LIPSTICK
ON THE
SAME
PERSON
TWICE.

AND MOST
OF ALL...

I LEARNED
THE VARIOUS
RISKS...

LIKE HOW IF I
KISSED SOMEONE A
SECOND TIME, WE
WOULD TURN BACK.



I LEARNED
WHAT
CONFIDENCE
AND
SUPERIORITY
FELT LIKE.



I
SWORE
I'D
NEVER
AGAIN
LOSE
MY WAY
AND
HAVE
SUCH A
STUPID
FANTASY,
EVER
AGAIN.

I JUST
HAD TO
BELIEVE
IN THAT
AND
FOLLOW
HER.

IF MY
MOTHER

...

HAD BEEN
ABLE TO
CHANGE
HER FACE
FOR HER
JOB, HER
MARRIAGE
AND EVERY-
THING,
THERE
SHOULD
BE A WAY.

I
WANTED
A WAY
TO HOLD
ONTO
THAT
BEAUTIFUL
FACE SO
I COULD
STAND
ON THAT
STAGE
ONCE
MORE.

Chapter Seven: Visitor









TRY NOT
TO ACT
SO WICKED
IN FRONT
OF OUR
RELATIVES.

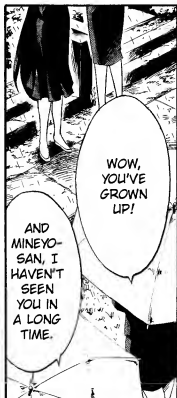


OH, MY!
IS THAT
SUKEYO-SAN'S
DAUGHTER?



IT'S
SO NICE
YOU'VE GOT
SUCH A
KIND AUNT,
KASANE-
SAN!

I'M
SORRY I
HAVEN'T
KEPT IN
TOUCH
MORE!



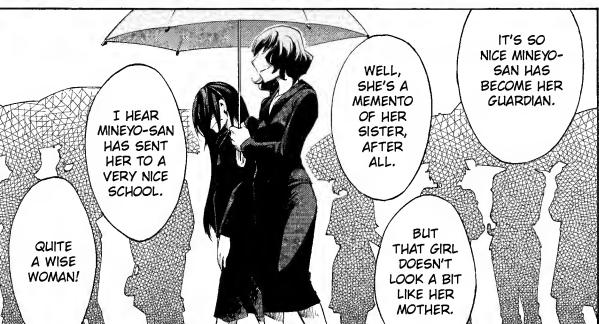
AND
MINEYO-
SAN, I
HAVEN'T
SEEN
YOU IN
A LONG
TIME.

WOW,
YOU'VE
GROWN
UP!



AFTER
LOSING
EVERYONE:
MY PARENTS
AND MY LITTLE
SISTER...
SHE'S ALL
THE FAMILY I
HAVE LEFT.

OH, NO...
SHE'S REALLY
THE ONE WHO'S
SAVED ME.



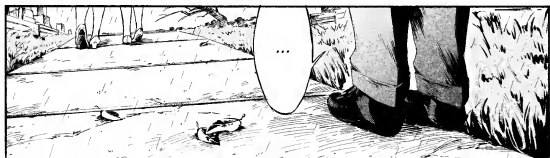
I HEAR
MINEYO-SAN
HAS SENT
HER TO A
VERY NICE
SCHOOL.

QUITE
A WISE
WOMAN!

WELL,
SHE'S A
MEMENTO
OF HER
SISTER,
AFTER
ALL.

IT'S SO
NICE MINEYO-
SAN HAS
BECOME HER
GUARDIAN.

BUT
THAT GIRL
DOESN'T
LOOK A BIT
LIKE HER
MOTHER.



...







WHEN
ACTUALLY,
YOU JUST
KICKED ME
OUT.

SO
YOU HAD
ME LIVE
SEPARATELY
SO I COULD
GO TO
A GOOD
SCHOOL?

SURE
SOUNDS
NICE WHEN
YOU SAY IT
TO THEM
...



I'M
GIVING
YOU
MONEY,
SO BE
THANKFUL.



THAT WAS
THE MONEY
MY MOTHER
LEFT ME.



INDEED.

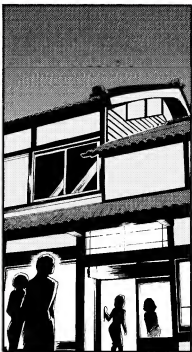
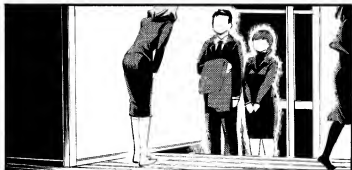
AND
IF YOU
WEREN'T
HERE, IT
WOULD
HAVE
BEEN
MINE.



A
GUARDIAN
ISN'T
OBLIGATED
TO LIVE
WITH A
CHARGE
WHO'S
UNDER-
AGED.

AND
YOU
DON'T
WANT
TO LIVE
WITH ME
ANYWAY,
DO YOU?





SO I'LL
PAY MY
RESPECTS
TO MY
MOTHER IN
MY OWN
WAY.

I WAS
TOLD,
"SEEING
YOUR
FACE
RUINS
THE
BOOZE."

DUR-
ING
THE
LAST
SER-
VICE
...



HEY!
WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?!



HMPH!



THANK
YOU VERY
MUCH FOR
COMING.

OH,
DON'T
THANK ME.
SUKEYO-
SAN DID A
LOT FOR
ME, WHEN
SHE WAS
ALIVE.



ANY-
WAY,
THAT
WAS
INDEED
KASANE.

SHE
HAS A
DIFFICULT
PERSON-
ALITY.

HA
HA.



H-
HA-
BUTA-
SAN!

IT'S
BEEN
A
LONG
TIME.



SHE'S
SUKEYO-
SAN'S
DAUGHTER,
ISN'T
SHE?



I
GUESS
THAT'S
IN THE
BLOOD.





MY
MOTH-
ER'S
ROOM
...



WAS IT
LIKE THIS
SINCE SHE
LEFT THE
HOUSE AT
EIGHTEEN?

IT
BASI-
CALLY
BECAME
STOR-
AGE.
BUT
THEY
WOULDN'T
HAVE
SENT HER
THINGS BACK
FROM THE
MANSION IN
TOKYO.



I'M
ALMOST
EIGHTEEN,
NOW.

...



RE-
CENTLY

...

I'VE
GROWN
TALLER,



MY
FIGURE
IS...

AND
WHETHER
I LIKE IT
OR NOT...

I'M A
GROTESQUE
CREATURE WITH
THE FACE OF A
MONSTER ON
A WOMAN'S
BODY.

BUT MY
FACE...

MY BODY IS
BECOMING
MORE ADULT,
EVEN IF I
NEVER ASKED
FOR IT.



WHEN DID
YOU BECOME
SUKEYO FUCHI?

DID YOU USED
TO BE LIKE THIS
TOO, MOM?



"WHEN,"
HUH?

SMIRK



?!

FLINCH

CLACK



CREAK



...





...ABOUT
WHEN A
CERTAIN
WOMAN
BECAME
SUKEYO
FUCHI.

I'LL
TELL YOU
IT ALL,
FROM
START TO
FINISH
...

...WHEN
SHE WAS
EIGHTEEN
YEARS OLD,
JUST LIKE
YOU ARE
NOW.

YOUR
MOTHER
ABANDONED
HER REAL
NAME AND
FACE...



WITH
HER
SECOND
TRANSFOR-
MATION,
SHE
FINALLY
BECAME
SUKEYO
FUCHI.

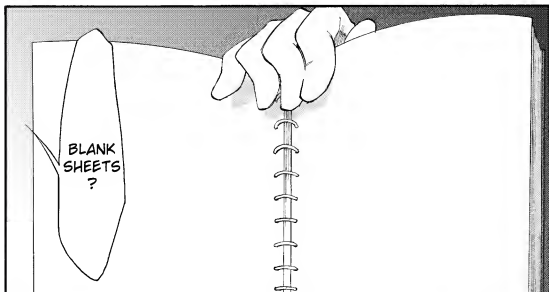
BUT
BACK
THEN,
SHE STILL
WASN'T
SUKEYO
FUCHI.

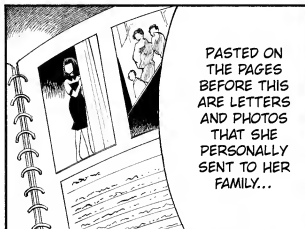


WHAT
?

BUMP







PASTED ON
THE PAGES
BEFORE THIS
ARE LETTERS
AND PHOTOS
THAT SHE
PERSONALLY
SENT TO HER
FAMILY...



YES.
THESE
BLANK
PAGES
ARE THE
BORDER
LINE.



BUT THE
PAGES AFTER
ARE NOTHING BUT
PROMOTIONAL
LEAFLETS FOR
SHOWS. IT'S
THOUGHT THAT
HER PARENTS
GLUED THEM IN
THERE, BELIEVING
THOSE WERE
SHOWS SHE WAS
STARRING IN.



BUT IT
WAS ALSO
AROUND
THIS TIME
THAT HER
REPUTATION
SUDDENLY
SHOT UP.

THAT
ALONE
ISN'T PROOF
...

FOR SOME
REASON OR
ANOTHER,
SHE STOPPED
SENDING
LETTERS.



JUST
WHO THE
HELL ARE
YOU?!

...



THE
DIRECTOR.

KINGO
HABUTA
...



AND OF
COURSE
...

SHE
WANTED
ME TO GIVE
HER UGLY
DAUGHTER
THE ROLE
OF A
BEAUTIFUL
WOMAN.

SUKEYO-
SAN
ASKED
A FAVOR
OF ME.



...USING
THE LIP-
STICK.



...SO THAT
SHE COULD
LIVE A LIFE
OF STEALING
OTHER
PEOPLES'
FACES AND
LIVES.

BUT
ALSO,
OFF THE
STAGE, I
HELPED HER
ALL ALONG
THE WAY IN
PROTECTING
HER
SECRET
...

AS A
DIRECTOR
...

I HAD
SUKEYO-
SAN ACT
ON STAGE
FOR ME,
ONCE.



YOU DON'T HAVE ANY CONNECTION TO ME. SO WHY?

EVEN IF YOU DID REALLY HELP MY MOTHER ...

BUT I JUST DON'T FEEL I CAN TRUST THIS MAN.



SO... IT WAS THE SAME FOR HER, TOO!

SHE WAS JUST LIKE ME!



THE NAME "KASANE" DESCRIBES YOUR FATE EXACTLY.

BECAUSE SUKEYO FUCHI WANTED IT.



ARE YOU
SAYING YOU'LL
INTRODUCE ME
TO A WOMAN
WHO WILL
CONVENIENTLY
LEND ME
HER FACE?

YOU
SAID,
"GIVE
ME A
ROLE."



HOW
ABOUT
IT...

AND
NOT
JUST
THAT.

I'M
SAYING
I'LL PUT
YOU IN
THE VERY
PLACE THAT
I KNOW
FASCINATES
YOU SO
MUCH.



EXACTLY.



GIOVANNI-
KUN?



SHE'S ENERGETIC
AND LIVELY, AND
HER ACTING IS
DECENT ENOUGH.

I'VE SEEN HER
ACT MANY
TIMES, IN A
FRIEND'S
THEATER.

WELL,
COM-
PARED
WITH IKU,
YOU DID
HAVE
SOME
MINOR
VOLUME
ISSUES,
AND
YOU'RE
NOT AS
GOOD AT
WORKING
WITH
OTHER
ACTORS.

BUT
THAT
WAS
IT.

THE
ENTIRE
THE-
ATER
FELT
THE
TEN-
SION!

THAT
EXCEP-
TIONAL
ACTING!

BUT
THE
FORCE
YOU
GAVE
GIO-
VANNI!

THERE'S
SOMETHING
ELSE ABOUT
IT THAT'S
POSSESSED
YOU.

IT'S NOT THAT
YOU JUST HAVE
THIS PURE LOVE
FOR THEATER,
THOUGH, IS IT?



THE
BEAUTIFUL
ARE AD-
MIRER! THE
BEAUTIFUL
ARE CONFID-
DENT!

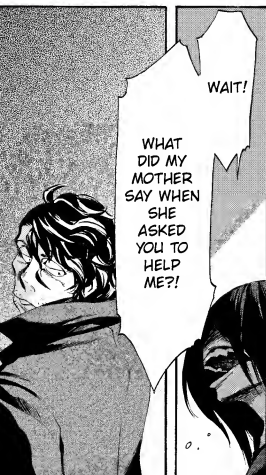
YOU CAN
NEVER
EXPERIENCE
THOSE
THINGS,
WITH THAT
HIDEOUS
FACE OF
YOURS.



YOU'LL
WANT THAT
AGAIN-NO,
MANY MORE
TIMES.

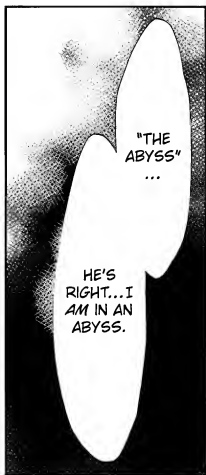






...FROM THE
THE ABYSS
INTO WHITE
LIGHTS!"



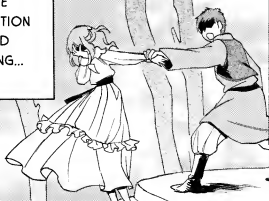




IT'S NOT
EVEN
COMPA-
RABLE!

THE
DIRECTION
AND
ACTING...

THE
LIGHTING,
SOUND,
AND STAGE
DESIGN...



IT'S DRAWING ME
INTO THE WORLD
ONSTAGE...



...





SHE'S
JUST A
SUPPORTING
ACTOR,
ISN'T SHE?
BUT
SHE'S SO
BEAUTIFUL!

NO
MATTER
HOW
FAR AWAY
SHE IS,

OR
THE
PLAIN
CLOTHES
SHE
WEARS,
SHE
STANDS
OUT
FROM
THE
REST.

SHE'S
LIKE A
DIAMOND
THAT
SHINES
FAR AND
WIDE.

IF WE'RE
JUST
TALKING
ABOUT
LOOKS,
SHE'S THE
ONE WHO
DESERVES
TO BE
THE LEAD.



WAS THIS
AN ERROR
IN CASTING,
THEN?



THE
LEAD IS
COMPLETELY
OVER-
SHAD-
OWED.

AFTER
SEEING
THAT
BEAUTI-
FUL SUP-
PORTING
ACTRESS
...



...NO.



OR AC-
TUALY...
IT SEEMS
LIKE...



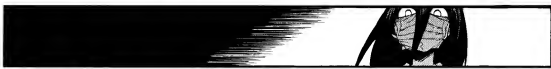
CLEARLY IS
THE BETTER
ACTOR.



THE
LEAD
ACTRESS
...



SHE'S
NOT CON-
CENTRATING,
IS SHE?



WHAT
A WASTE.



IF IT
WERE
ME!

I'D GIVE
THAT SHOW
EVERYTHING
I HAD...

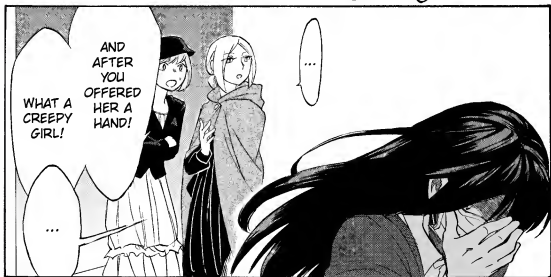
SO
WHY IS
HER
PERFOR-
MANCE
SO PA-
THETIC?

SHE'S
SO
BEAU-
TIFUL,
AND
THOUGH
SHE MAY
BE A
SUP-
PORTING
ACTRESS,
SHE
STILL
GOT
LINES.



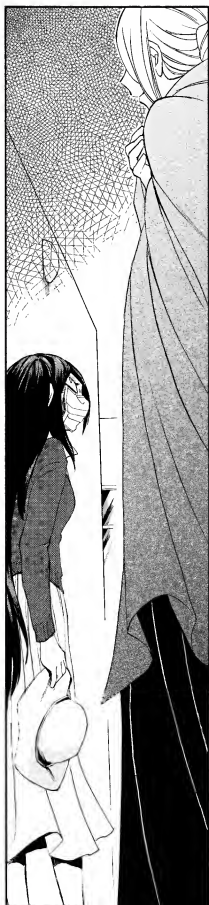
IT WAS
INTEREST-
ING, BUT
I JUST
COULDN'T
STOP
THINKING
ABOUT THAT
BEAUTIFUL
SUPPORTING
ACTRESS.







...HER
KNOWING
HER
PLACE.



KASANE

Translation Notes

Kasane

In the early Edo period in Shimousa province (present day Chiba/Ibaraki area), an ugly woman named Kasane was murdered by her husband. The event became so famous, it was dramatized into kabuki plays and dance-dramas.

The name *Kasane* comes from the verb *kasaneru*, which has many meanings. The first is “overlap,” which is used when describing kissing (*kuchibiru wo kasaneru*, to “overlap lips”). It can also mean to overlap metaphorically, as when its used to describe resemblance. *Tanin ni haha ga kasanatte miete shimau*, for example, means, “when people look at me, they see my mother.” *Kasaneru* can also refer to repetition, doing the same thing again.

Finally, the kanji used to write Kasane’s name can also mean “trouble,” as in, “she’s brought trouble for us.”

KASANE

Kasane 1

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First published in Japan in 2013 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
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English digital edition published by Kodansha Advanced Media, LLC,
San Francisco.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781682337219

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translation by Jennifer Ward
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YKS Services LLC/SKY Japan, INC.